Union Theo. Seminary - April 11th 1843.

To The Society of Inquiry
Princeton Theo. Seminary.

Dear Brethren:

We are happy to acknowledge the reception of yours of March 18th, and shall reply immediately according to your request. It is nothing but just that we should inform you that your previous epistle was promptly attended to, and we are sorry that it did not reach its proper destination.

Although few of us are personally acquainted, and but few special friendships exist between us, yet the relation which we sustain to one another, to the church, & its Head, demands a frequent interchange of communications. Although we are not connected by the ties of nature, we are, in a peculiar, and interesting sense, a band of brethren. We all expect to participate in the same awful & responsible work of the ministry of reconciliation; to be co-workers with Jesus Christ, in the same great vineyard, and to share in the same cares and toils incident to our calling. If we are called at all, it is to preach the same gospel, & to aid in accomplishing the same grand designs. We are not only candidates for the same office, but fellow-travelers to the same eternity, and expectants of the same glorious immortality. Ours, we rejoice to believe, is not the cold, formal friendship of the world, swayed by the sceptre of selfishness, and self-interest, but a christian, a holy friendship; that

which the withering hand of time can never efface, and which, when we shall have "put on incorruption", shall be like our inheritance, "incorruptible, undefiled & that fadeth not away". Brethren, "If God so loved us, we ought also to love one another".

During the past session, our meetings on the great subject of missions have been pleasant and profitable. To the devoted child of God, such a subject must be one of thrilling interest: and if it is not so, it is because the "light which is in him" is at least partially obscured. Every humble believer, when he lifts up his heart to God & sincerely and intelligently prays "Thy kingdom come", prays for this great object, and has hands to work for the evangelization of the world. It is greatly to be regretted that the great mass of the professed people of God seem to be so little interested in this matter. This may ~~be~~ result from a want of sufficient knowledge on the subject, but the more probable reason is that the cause of our Master is not as near their hearts as it should be. But it becomes us first to examine our own hearts & see whether all is right there; whether we have much of the spirit of our glorious Redeemer, who first loved us; whether we are copying his high & holy example, and are willing to be anything, or nothing; willing to go any where

or "suffer if need be", if thereby God may be honoured, and souls saved. Upon our holiness, in a great measure, depends our usefulness.

Whilst it is probable that there are some amongst us, who, after the close of the next term, will be employed as domestic missionaries, we are not able to report any who expect to engage personally in the foreign field. We are glad that "one at least" of your number is in expectation of going "for hence" to preach to the Gentiles the unsearchable riches of Jesus Christ. May the God of all grace thoroughly qualify him in soul, mind & body for his labour of love, and put it into the hearts of many more to "go and do likewise". Of late, there has been no unusual outpouring of the Spirit of God among us. Men in general seem to be much engrossed about time, & the times, than eternity & their souls. Among the coloured population in our immediate vicinity, the Spirit of God seems to be at work. Some have had fearful forebodings with respect to the immediate consummation of all things; but many, we hope, are honestly inquiring the way of salvation. Several have already professed to be on the Lord's side, & we trust a new spirit has been implanted within them.

may the Lord add to his church daily of such as shall be saved.
Finally, brethren, may the peace of God which passeth understanding, & the communion of the Holy Ghost abide with you continually & prepare us all for eminent usefulness to the church & to the world.

1853

Society of Inquiry
Princeton Theo. Sem'y
New Jersey.

Aug 17

We shall be pleased to hear from you whenever you ~~shall be~~ are disposed to favour us with an answer.

Yours with christian affection
In behalf of the Society of Inquiry
R. N. Davis. Cor. Sec.